Amendments to the Specification:

Summary of the Invention

In the present invention, an Active Call Delivery (ACD) system is provided according to a distributed call processing model which uses local rather than centralized feature definition. Communication end points within the system have the ability to define their own feature behavior. A standard language is used to convey indications between end points for negotiation of call behavior. There are two important differences between the call processing model of the present invention and prior art call processing models. Firstly, there is no distributed call state. This follows from the capability of each communication end point to define its own call handling preferences, such that the call states of each end point are in general unknowable to each other end point (~~i.e.~~ that is in Internet telephony there is no central repository of features). Secondly, the indications exchanged between each side have no commonly shared semantics. They are merely syntactic entities that a receiving end point can interpret as indications of the goals of the sender end point for the purpose of creating an interaction that meets the needs of its user.